



Washington State Senate

The Benton Bulletin

17TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT UPDATE FROM SENATOR DON BENTON

November 2003

Dear neighbors:

It is my honor to serve you in Olympia as your state senator. It is my firm belief that government is not the cure-all to the world's ills, and often invasive government has proven to be a dismal failure. My efforts in the Legislature exemplify a more efficient government with lower taxes for families and businesses and holding back the tide of government over regulation and unbridled growth. Success of these efforts will mean freedom—freedom for families and freedom for businesses to create jobs for our children and our children's children.

EDUCATION

Washington's education system entrusts teachers to educate our children and give them many of the tools that will enable them to become contributing—and let's not forget taxpaying—members of society.

My commitment to education includes my advocacy this session for better pay for teachers, especially math and science teachers, and merit pay, so that Washington can attract and retain the best teachers in our public schools.

The Legislature made many encouraging strides this past session to improve education in Washington, including:

- No full-time teacher will make less than \$30,000 per year; and
- Funding for class-size reduction efforts was increased from \$212 to \$254 per student.

HEALTH CARE

This past session, I supported efforts to make prescription drugs more affordable to low-income seniors and disabled residents of our state. Although this was a giant leap toward making health care more affordable, there is still much within the health care system that needs to be fixed.

This session, I look forward to working with my colleagues to make it more affordable for small businesses in Washington to offer health care coverage to their employees. We must begin to chip away at the costly barrier that is keeping the residents of our state from the health care they need.

JOBS

Throughout my years in the Legislature, I have made the creation of jobs a priority. I have always believed that improving businesses'

(continued on back)



Senator Don Benton

- Committee assignments:**
- Financial Services, Insurance & Housing, Chairman
 - Highways & Transportation, Vice Chairman
 - Rules
 - Economic Development

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www.leg.wa.gov

I WORK FOR YOU!!! To truly represent you in Olympia, I need to hear from you!!! Please take this opportunity to share what is important to you by filling out this card. (On the other side, please include your return address and sufficient postage.)

VOTER 1: _____

VOTER 2: _____

☐ Please check this box if you are interested in information about specific issues addressed by the Legislature. E-mail: _____



ability to operate without excessive government regulations or taxes would provide for the opportunity to create more jobs. This past session, I supported reforms to the ailing workers' compensation and unemployment insurance systems. There is still much that must be accomplished to make jobs more readily available, and this upcoming session, I intend to focus a great deal of time and energy on doing just that.

CONSUMER PROTECTION:

Technology has made it easier for criminals to steal your identity and credit. Unfortunately, laws have

not kept pace with those technologies. In response to ever-increasing accounts of identity theft and the fraudulent use of driver's licenses, credit cards and credit card scanning machines, I introduced and supported legislation that will beef up the state's ability to protect consumers and prosecute criminals. As the chairman of the Senate committee that oversees identity theft and financial fraud, I will continue my efforts to protect Washington consumers.

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A *special invitation* to the **WOMEN**
of the **17TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT!**

Come meet your state senator, Don Benton,
and share what is on your mind.

3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on **SATURDAY, DEC. 6, 2003**
School Employees Credit Union Lobby
2620 S.E. 165th Ave.
*(between the Chevron station and McDonald's on 164th
and near Fred Meyer in Fishers Landing)*

Bring your children! Snacks and refreshments will be provided.
For more information, please call 576-6059



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